

Message Text

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, RP, US

SUBJECT: FUTURE OF U.S. BASES

REF: MANILA 6092

1. ADMIRAL SHELTON AND I, ACCCOMPANIED BY OUR WIVES, SPENT NIGHT MAY 11 ABOARD YACHT IN MANILA BAY AS GUESTS OF EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MELCHOR, HIS WIFE, DEFENSE SECRETARY PONCE ENRILE, AND ADMIRAL RUIZ. OCCASION WAS ARRANGED BY MELCHOR TO PERMIT INFORMAL DISCUSSION OF U.S. MILITARY FACILITIES, ESPECIALLY SUBIC BAY COMPLEX.

2. MELCHOR SAID HE FELT WE NEEDED TO PLAN NOW FOR STATUS OF SUBIC WHEN OUR CURRENT BASE AGREEMENT EXPIRES IN 1991, "OR EARLIER". IN THAT CONNECTION, HE HAD ORDERED STUDY OF ACTION TAKEN BY SINGAPORE WHEN UK PULLED OUT OF ITS INSTALLATIONS THERE. HE HAD CONCLUDED THAT PHILIPPINES COULD DO SAME THING AS SINGAPORE DID WITH RESPECT SUBIC. HE OPINED THAT US NAVY COULD GET EXACTLY SAME SERVICE (AND MORE ECONOMICALLY) AT SUBIC IF IT BECAME A "JOINT VENTURE" UNDER COMMERCIAL MANAGEMENT SUCH AS NEWPORT NEWS

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SHIPBUILDING.

3. ADMIRAL SHELTON AND I ATTEMPTED EDUCATE OUR PHILIPPINE INTERLOCUTORS IN COMPLEXITIES OF SUBIC OPERATION AND EXPRESSED OUR DOUBTS AND RESERVATIONS ABOUT CAPABILITY COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISE TO PROVIDE SAME SERVICES. MELCHOR SAID "SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS" COULD BE MADE FOR FLEET SUPPORT ACTIVITIES AS DISTINCT FROM SHIP REPAIR FACILITIES, BUT HE WAS NOT RPT NOT VERY EXPLICIT ON THIS SUBJECT. PRACTICALLY NOTHING WAS SAID ABOUT CLARK, EXCEPT FOR MENTION OF FACT THAT IT MIGHT BECOME INTERNATIONAL "AIR FREIGHT" PORT AFTER 1991.

4. MEETING WAS INCONCLUSIVE BUT INDICATES THAT GOP IS PREPARING TO MAKE SOME SERIOUS AND PERHAPS FAR-REACHING PROPOSALS ON "RECONSTITUTION" OF U.S. MILITARY FACILITIES HERE. ADMIRAL SHELTON AND I HAVE ARRANGED TO BRING MELCHOR TO SUBIC MAY 18 FOR BRIEFING ON FACILITIES AS WELL AS TOUR OF INSTALLATIONS IN ORDER BRING HIM MORE CLOSELY IN TOUCH WITH REALITIES OF PROBLEM.

SULLIVAN

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